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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/738,686	12/15/2000	Douglas E. Crafts	42390P10312	9954

7590

02/05/2003

Charles K. Young
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
Seventh Floor
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026

EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 02/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/738,686

Applicant(s)

CRAFTS, DOUGLAS E.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-12, 14-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-12 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 8.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-1~~1~~ and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's submitted prior art (APA) in view of Kanda et al. (5,721,798).

Regarding claims 1, 6 and 12, APA, figures 1-3, discloses a device comprising:

- a fiber optic bundle (10) having a termination block (40); and
- an array waveguide (42) having channels (45) internally. The array waveguide positioned adjacent to the terminal block. The termination block comprises two retainers (16, 18) having etched grooves. The termination block and the array waveguide are bonded together by an epoxy (50)

APA discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for two pins each partially extending into both the termination block and the array waveguide.

Kanda et al., figure 2, discloses two guide pins (6) are inserted into holes (4, 11) of a waveguide device (30) and a connector (5) which read on two pins each partially extending into both the termination block and the array waveguide. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify APA to have two guide pins connect between the waveguide device and the connector

Art Unit: 2839

as taught by Kanda et al., in order to easy and highly reproducible (Kanda et al.'s abstract).

Regarding claim 3, it is noted that Kanda et al., figure 2, discloses the array waveguide has two holes (11) formed by an etch process.

Regarding claims 4-5, 7-11 and 14-15, APA, figure 3, discloses a gel (50) dispensed between the termination block and the array waveguide. The gel has an index of refraction substantially similar to that of the channels of the array waveguide.

3. Claims 16-17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA and Kanda et al. as applied to claims 6 and 12 above, and further in view of Cannon, Jr. et al. (4,973,127).

APA and Kanda disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for the multiple holes are filled by optical fibers except for the holes with the pins inserted in them.

Cannon, Jr. et al., figure 5, disclose an optical connector having an array of fiber grooves (60a-71a) and pin grooves (80a, 81a) which read on the multiple holes are filled by optical fibers except for the holes with the pins inserted in them. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify APA and Kanda to have the array of fiber grooves and pin grooves as taught by Cannon, Jr. et al., in order to hold and to align the connectors with each other.

Art Unit: 2839

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 1/7/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant states "Applicant submits it would not have been obvious to combine a method of permanently coupling devices (APA) with a method of temporarily coupling two devices (Kanda et al.)".

The Examiner disagrees. The **permanently coupling or removably connecting** between a fiber optic bundle and an array waveguide, not cited in claims 1, 6 and 12. Therefore, APA and Kanda et al. are proper combination.

Claim 3 has been rejected under Kanda et al.' reference.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2839

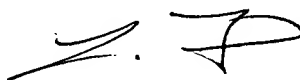
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

TL.
January 17, 2003

LYNN FIELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER



LYNN FIELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800